

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139601

FOL REPEAT QUITO 3934 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LA PAZ LIMA SANTIAGO  
GUAYAQUIL DTD 14 JUN.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDOR PDIP PORG PLOS EC

SUBJ: AYALA BECOMES FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: JOSE AYALA WAS SWORN IN AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND GAVE A CAUTIOUS OUTLINE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. INCLUDED WAS A BID FOR A BETTER DIALOG WITH PERU ON BOUNDARIES, A PLEDGE TO FIGHT THE GSP EXCLUSION, AND A BOW TO ECUADOR'S TERRITORIAL SEA AND SPACE CLAIMS. NOT INCLUDED WAS ANY OTHER MENTION OF THE US NOR ANY DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE THIRD WORLD. GIVEN AYALA'S BACKGROUND, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AYALA WILL BE TOUGHER TO DEAL WITH THAN SALVADOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MILITARY, EAGER FOR US SECURITY COOPERATION, WILL PROBABLY WATCH HIM CLOSELY.

2. JOSE AYALA LASSO WAS SWORN IN AS FOREIGN MINISTER BY THE  
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SUPREME COUNCIL IN A FORMAL CEREMONY AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON JUNE 13. FOLLOWING CUSTOM, AYALA SPOKE FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES ABOUT HIS GOALS, PLANS, AND ATTITUDES. DURING THE ADDRESS, AYALA WAS AT PAINS TO STRESS CONTINUITY AND THE IMMUTABILITY OF CERTAIN ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES. SPECIFICALLY HE:

---RECOGNIZED THE ICONS OF THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND

THE CLAIM OVER THE GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT,  
---PROMISED TO REMAIN FIRM AGAINST THE MAINTENANCE OF THE GSP  
EXCLUSION CLAUSE IN THE US TRADE ACT,  
---PLEDGED HIMSELF TO STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDLY CREATIVE  
DIALOGUE WITH PERU WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO JUST AND WORTHY RESOLU-  
TION OF THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM "WITHIN REALISTIC FORMULAS  
WHICH CORRESPOND TO AN HONORABLE CONCILIATION."  
---ASSIGNED TOP PRIORITY TO THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY  
QUESTION WITHIN THE PURSUIT FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
ORDER,  
---MADE THE OBLIGATORY REFERENCES OF SUPPORT FOR THE ANDEAN  
PACT, LAFTA, OAS, UN AND SELA.

3. AYALA ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEED TO COORDINATE FOREIGN POLICY  
CLOSELY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. HE CONCLUDED SAYING  
THAT WHILE ACTING ON THE BASIS OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES,  
ECUADOR WILL BE REALISTIC. IT WILL TRY ABOVE ALL TO DEFEND  
AND INSURE ITS RIGHTS AND INTERESTS, PROMOTING BETTER  
RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN THIS EFFORT.

4. COMMENT: AYALA'S REMARKS WERE DRY, AND CAUTIOUS.  
OF NOTE WERE HIS COMMENTS ON PERU WHICH WERE SOMEWHAT LESS  
AGGRESSIVE AND MORE ANODYNE THAN THOSE OF HIS PREDECESSOR  
AND CERTAINLY MORE CONCILIATORY THAN THOSE OF ARMANDO PESANTES,  
SALVADOR LARA'S PREDECESSOR. ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS ON GSP  
EXCLUSION WERE COUCHED IN NON-INFLAMMATORY LANGUAGE, THAT  
THIS WAS HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO THE US IN SPEECH IS NEITHER  
ENLIGHTENING NOR ENCOURAGING. AYALA'S SEVERAL BOWS TO  
"REALISM", HOWEVER, AND THE LACK OF ANY REFERENCE AT ALL TO  
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G-77 OR THE THIRD WORLD PER SE CAN BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLE  
PORTENTS.

5. SALVADOR'S REPLACEMENT BY AYALA CAN PROBABLY NOT BE  
LOOKED UPON AS A NET GAIN FOR OUR INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH HE WAS  
DEVOUT BELIEVER IN HISPANIDAD, SALVADOR'S APPRECIATION OF  
A POTENTIALLY BENEFICIAL SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE  
US AND LATIN AMERICA HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF  
BILATERAL RELATIONS. AYALA, THE EPITOME OF ECUADOR'S FOREIGN  
SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT (SEE QUITO'S A-1), IS LIKELY TO BE MORE  
RESERVED THAN SALVADOR, MORE ZEALOUS IN MAINTAINING ECUADOR'S  
FACE, AND THEREFORE A TOUGHER AND MORE SUBBORN NEGOTIATOR.  
WHILE CERTAINLY NOT ANTI-US, AYALA HAS A TENDENCY TO LOOK  
ASKANCE AT OUR MOTIVES AND BE GRUDGING WITH CONCESSIONS. FOR  
INSTANCE, AYALA REACTED MUCH MORE NEGATIVELY TO THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS BEING INTERVENTIONIST  
THAN SALVADOR, WHO, AFTER SOME INITIAL WAFFLING, PRAISED IT  
IN SANTIAGO AND BUENOS AIRES.

6. ON THE OTHERHAND, AYALA IS KNOWN TO HAVE HIS CRITICS AMONG THE MILITARY AND WE SUSPECT THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT WAS MADE NOT OUT OF CHOICE, BUT OF EXPEDIENCY TO FILL QUICKLY AN EMBARRASSING GAP LEFT BY SALVADOR'S UNSCHEDULED DEPARTURE. (SEE SEPTTEL). IF SO, AYALA WILL PROBABLY BE PLACED ON A SHORT LEASH, A PROSPECT NOT UNFAVORABLE TO OUR INTERESTS. HOWEVER, HOW MUCH THE MILITARY IS WILL ING TO CHECK AYALA'S OBSERVED TENDENCY TO ADOPT POSITIONS LIKELY TO NETTLE THE US MAY DEPEND ULTIMATELY UPON THE MILITARY'S APPRAISAL OF HOW COOPERATIVE THE US WILL BE IN THE SECURITY SPHERE.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, PORG, PLOS, EC, (AYALA, JOSE)  
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